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Occupational Employment and Wages in Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway, May 2014

Workers in the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$20.20 in May 2014, about 11 percent below the nationwide average of \$22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were lower than their respective national averages in 20 of the 22 major groups, including computer and mathematical; legal; and management.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 5 of the 22 occupational groups, including healthcare practitioners and technical; office and administrative support; and sales and related. Conversely, nine groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including food preparation and serving related; architecture and engineering; and production. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway		United States	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾	
Total, all occupations.....	100.0%	100.0%		\$22.71	\$20.20	*	-11
Management.....	5.0	5.4	*	54.08	42.89	*	-21
Business and financial operations.....	5.1	4.7	*	34.81	28.54	*	-18
Computer and mathematical.....	2.8	3.2		40.37	30.78	*	-24
Architecture and engineering.....	1.8	1.3	*	39.19	32.60	*	-17
Life, physical, and social science.....	0.8	0.7	*	33.69	25.57	*	-24
Community and social service.....	1.4	1.2	*	21.79	19.73	*	-9
Legal.....	0.8	1.1	*	48.61	37.52	*	-23
Education, training, and library.....	6.2	5.4		25.10	25.11		0
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media.....	1.3	1.0	*	26.82	20.51	*	-24
Healthcare practitioners and technical.....	5.8	8.1	*	36.54	33.53	*	-8
Healthcare support.....	2.9	3.1		13.86	12.73	*	-8
Protective service.....	2.4	2.2	*	21.14	17.31	*	-18
Food preparation and serving related.....	9.1	8.6	*	10.57	9.14	*	-14
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.....	3.2	3.3		12.68	10.63	*	-16
Personal care and service.....	3.1	3.0		12.01	10.06	*	-16
Sales and related.....	10.5	11.0	*	18.59	17.39	*	-6

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment			Mean hourly wage			
	United States	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway		United States	Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway		Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Office and administrative support.....	16.0	17.3	*	17.08	15.34	*	-10
Farming, fishing, and forestry.....	0.3	0.1	*	12.09	17.20	*	42
Construction and extraction.....	3.9	3.7		22.40	17.80	*	-21
Installation, maintenance, and repair.....	3.9	4.0		21.74	19.08	*	-12
Production.....	6.6	5.1	*	17.06	16.21	*	-5
Transportation and material moving.....	6.8	6.6		16.57	15.36	*	-7

⁽¹⁾ A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

Note: * The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—healthcare practitioners and technical—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Little Rock had 27,080 jobs in healthcare practitioners and technical, accounting for 8.1 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 5.8-percent national share. However, at \$33.53 per hour, the local average hourly wage for this occupational group was about 8 percent below the national average of \$36.54.

With employment of 9,300, registered nurses was one of the largest occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group, as were licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (3,060) and pharmacy technicians (1,140). Among the higher paying jobs were family and general practitioners and general internists, with mean hourly wages of \$107.38 and \$103.98, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were emergency medical technicians and paramedics (\$14.05) and pharmacy technicians (\$14.27). (Detailed occupational data for the healthcare practitioners and technical group are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations go to www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_30780.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Little Rock metropolitan area, above average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the healthcare practitioners and technical group. For instance, speech-language pathologists were employed at 2.0 times the national rate in Little Rock, and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, at 1.8 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, radiologic technologists had a location quotient of 1.1 in Little Rock, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area included 2,880 establishments with a response rate of 81 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** includes Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline Counties in Arkansas.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/southwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/current/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.....	27,080	1.4	\$33.53	\$69,750
Chiropractors.....	110	1.5	53.97	112,270
Dentists, general.....	180	0.7	98.56	205,000
Dietitians and nutritionists.....	280	1.9	24.21	50,360
Optometrists.....	50	0.6	60.59	126,030
Pharmacists.....	1,120	1.5	50.35	104,720
Family and general practitioners.....	400	1.3	107.38	223,340
Internists, general.....	140	1.2	103.98	216,270
Obstetricians and gynecologists.....	(5)	(5)	(6)	(6)
Psychiatrists.....	(5)	(5)	28.71	59,710
Surgeons.....	220	2.2	95.23	198,080
Physicians and surgeons, all other.....	1,750	2.3	73.21	152,280
Physician assistants.....	110	0.5	33.94	70,590
Occupational therapists.....	430	1.6	40.55	84,350
Physical therapists.....	710	1.4	37.53	78,070
Radiation therapists.....	120	2.9	38.40	79,860
Recreational therapists.....	70	1.5	25.58	53,210
Respiratory therapists.....	530	1.8	24.27	50,480
Speech-language pathologists.....	610	2.0	36.17	75,230
Veterinarians.....	110	0.7	51.58	107,290
Registered nurses.....	9,300	1.4	29.00	60,330
Nurse anesthetists.....	160	1.8	73.23	152,320
Nurse practitioners.....	460	1.5	45.15	93,900
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists.....	550	1.4	24.85	51,690
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians.....	730	1.8	17.18	35,730
Dental hygienists.....	380	0.8	28.27	58,800
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians.....	180	1.4	28.78	59,860
Diagnostic medical sonographers.....	120	0.8	25.90	53,880
Nuclear medicine technologists.....	50	0.9	31.74	66,010
Radiologic technologists.....	540	1.1	24.89	51,770
Magnetic resonance imaging technologists.....	90	1.1	27.23	56,640
Emergency medical technicians and paramedics.....	420	0.7	14.05	29,230
Dietetic technicians.....	90	1.3	10.48	21,800
Pharmacy technicians.....	1,140	1.3	14.27	29,690
Psychiatric technicians.....	310	2.0	14.51	30,180
Respiratory therapy technicians.....	80	3.1	19.06	39,640
Surgical technologists.....	310	1.3	21.59	44,910
Veterinary technologists and technicians.....	70	0.3	15.66	32,580
Ophthalmic medical technicians.....	70	0.8	16.44	34,200
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses.....	3,060	1.8	18.20	37,850
Medical records and health information technicians.....	640	1.4	18.04	37,530
Opticians, dispensing.....	140	0.8	18.91	39,340
Orthotists and prosthetists.....	(5)	(5)	20.79	43,250
Health technologists and technicians, all other.....	(5)	(5)	25.33	52,690
Occupational health and safety specialists.....	230	1.4	28.30	58,870
Occupational health and safety technicians.....	(5)	(5)	28.55	59,380
Athletic trainers.....	60	1.1	(5)	44,530

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Healthcare practitioners and technical workers, all other.....	120	1.2	19.01	39,550

⁽¹⁾ For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_30780.htm.

⁽²⁾ Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.

⁽³⁾ The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.

⁽⁴⁾ Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

⁽⁵⁾ Estimates not released.

⁽⁶⁾ This wage is equal to or greater than \$90.00 per hour or \$187,200 per year.